

York (Mr. SCHUMER) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2019 proposed to H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

## AMENDMENT NO. 2056

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2056 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

## AMENDMENT NO. 2063

At the request of Mr. SALAZAR, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CONRAD) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2063 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

## AMENDMENT NO. 2086

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, his name and the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2086 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

## AMENDMENT NO. 2125

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. BYRD) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2125 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

## AMENDMENT NO. 2135

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, her name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2135 proposed to H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

## AMENDMENT NO. 2171

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2171 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

## STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mrs. CLINTON (for herself, Mr. SPECTER, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 1787. A bill to conduct 1 or more higher education and career readiness demonstration projects for rural, low-income students; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mrs. CLINTON. Mr. President, all students, regardless of where they live, need appropriate tools to compete in today's global economy. Today, I am pleased to introduce legislation that will ensure students in rural areas are equipped with the resources they need. If approved, the Rural Students College, Career, and Community Readiness Act of 2007 would improve the educational and career outcomes and build the leadership skills of students in rural communities. I am pleased to be working my colleague, Senator SPECTER, on this important and timely legislation.

Roughly one in four public schools is located in rural America, accounting for 14.5 percent of total public school enrollment. Unfortunately, studies have shown students attending these rural schools generally have lower educational aspirations than their urban and suburban peers. In addition, roughly half of rural high school students live and attend schools in counties that do not have colleges.

These facts are daunting and present a major hurdle in improving education for students in rural communities. However, if our country is to successfully compete for jobs in the marketplace of the 21st century, we must ensure all students have access to an excellent education. These are some of the many reasons why Senator SPECTER and I have joined together to introduce the Rural Students College, Career, and Community Readiness Act of 2007.

This legislation will establish partnerships between nonprofit entities and rural school districts to improve the academic motivation and educational performance of rural, low-income students. Under these partnerships, students in grades 7-12 will receive 25 hours of program workshops during the school year to develop career awareness and build their leadership skills. Furthermore, these programs will provide information for students about the

opportunities for and the importance of higher education while increasing understanding of the future labor needs in their State.

This legislation also calls for a rigorous evaluation of the program's impact. The results of this evaluation will not only tell us the rates of participation in dual enrollment courses, advanced placement courses, or other related programs of our rural students, but also provide models of best practices for partnerships so others can replicate their success.

The Rural Students College, Career, and Community Readiness Act emphasizes the improvement of human capital through education as an important engine for economic development for rural communities. This legislation is needed to increase the number of rural students engaged in rigorous, college-preparatory coursework, improve their high school graduation rates, and prepare the next generation of leaders in rural communities.

I am hopeful my Senate colleagues will join us to move this legislation to the floor without delay.

By Mr. ROBERTS:

S. 1788. A bill to provide for the mandatory revocation of passports of individuals whose child support payments are more than \$2,500 in arrears; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I rise today to offer legislation to ensure that noncustodial parents pay child support, instead of fleeing off to hide from their responsibilities. I commend my fellow Kansas colleagues, Congressman DENNIS MOORE and Congressman JERRY MORAN, for introducing similar legislation in the House.

The problem is this: noncustodial parents could potentially avoid paying their responsible share of child support by leaving the country. State child support enforcement agencies must certify cases to the State Department for passport denial if the child support debt is over \$2,500. The loophole that emerges is for those deadbeat parents who already have a passport. Under current implementation of the law, the next opportunity for enforcement is at the renewal of the passport, which could be several years down the road. The legislation I offer today closes that loophole, and simply instructs the State Department to revoke, in addition to denying, a noncustodial parent's passport once the individual's child support debt exceeds \$2,500. Studies show that the receipt of child support is a key factor that keeps a child and single parent family from living in or near poverty. Beyond the financial security that steady child support provides, there is a greater likelihood that noncustodial parents are personally involved in their child's life. If a parent shows responsibility financially, there is a bigger chance that he or she is involved emotionally. The impact of a noncustodial parent's involvement in his child's life, in many cases, results

in better grades and fewer behavioral problems.

In Kansas alone, there are currently 131,000 child support cases open, including those receiving public assistance, and those above that income bracket. Last year, the Kansas Child Support Enforcement Program collected \$156 million in child support.

Now, you might ask: What percentage of the population will this help? I would concede that, although this may not impact a high percentage of those children and families receiving child support, the impact on an individual family is very significant. According to my state's limited records on this issue, approximately 50 passport applications and renewals are denied on a yearly basis. That figure does not include those passports that should be revoked. The Kansas Child Support Enforcement Program estimates that the number of deadbeat parents affected would increase to 250. The security afforded by the steady stream of child support could be the lone determinant of a family living in poverty or existing on adequate financial ground.

I encourage my colleagues to add their support to this important fix. We must ensure that the tools provided to the states have the teeth necessary to discourage deadbeat parents from running out on their financial responsibilities.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

##### SENATE RESOLUTION 271— HONORING LADY BIRD JOHNSON

Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. McCONNELL, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BAYH, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. BOND, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. BURR, Mr. BYRD, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. COBURN, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. COLEMAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. CORKER, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. DODD, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. ENZI, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. GREGG, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. INOUYE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KERRY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. KOHL, Mr. KYL, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. LOTT, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. MCCAIN, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. MIKULSKI, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. REED, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. SMITH, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. SPECTER, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. SUNUNU, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE,

Mr. VITTER, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WEBB, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

##### S. RES. 271

Whereas Americans throughout the nation are mourning the passing of Claudia Taylor (Lady Bird) Johnson, who served as First Lady with honor and grace during the Administration of her husband, President Lyndon Baines Johnson;

Whereas Mrs. Johnson was born near Karnack, Texas and received the nickname "Lady Bird" as a young child;

Whereas Lady Bird Johnson was known as an excellent student and graduated from the University of Texas;

Whereas Lady Bird Johnson met Lyndon Johnson in 1934 and the 2 were married later that year;

Whereas Lady Bird Johnson was a successful businesswoman who helped build a small radio station into a multimillion-dollar radio and television enterprise;

Whereas throughout her husband's political career in Congress and the White House, Lady Bird Johnson played an important supportive role as a partner and confidante;

Whereas as wife of the Vice President, Lady Bird Johnson visited 33 foreign countries as an ambassador of goodwill;

Whereas, as First Lady, Lady Bird Johnson earned widespread respect and affection not only for the tone of dignity with which she represented her husband and the Nation, but for her active involvement in efforts to serve the public, such as her work to improve the environment and to address the problem of poverty in the United States;

Whereas millions of travelers and commuters have Lady Bird Johnson to thank for the colorful flowers that line many of our roads, which represent a living, lasting legacy of the woman who guided the Highway Beautification Act of 1965 (23 U.S.C. 131, 135 note, 136, 319) into law;

Whereas after leaving the White House, Lady Bird Johnson continued to serve the Nation in many ways, including helping to found the National Wildflower Research Center, supporting the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library, and serving on the Board of the National Geographic Society as a trustee emeritus; and

Whereas, in addition to her service to the Nation, Lady Bird Johnson was a devoted and loving mother to her 2 daughters, Lynda Bird and Luci Baines, as well as her 7 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren; Now, therefore, be it

##### Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) notes with deep sorrow and solemn mourning the death of Claudia Taylor (Lady Bird) Johnson;

(2) extends its heartfelt sympathy to Mrs. Johnson's family;

(3) honors and, on behalf of the nation, expresses deep appreciation for Lady Bird Johnson's important service to her country; and

(4) directs the Secretary of the Senate to transmit a copy of this resolution to the family of Mrs. Johnson.

##### SENATE RESOLUTION 272—PRAISING MUSLIM-AMERICAN PHYSICIANS WHO CONDEMNED RECENT ATTEMPTED TERRORIST ACTS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. HAGEL) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

##### S. RES. 272

Whereas in early July 2007, acts of terrorism were attempted at Glasgow Airport and in London;

Whereas early indications suggest that Muslim physicians allegedly were responsible for the attempted acts of terrorism;

Whereas thousands of Muslim-American physicians living and practicing in the United States are an important and welcome component of American society;

Whereas Muslim-American physicians, through the Islamic Medical Association of North America, publicly stated that the association "condemns in the strongest terms the attack on Glasgow Airport, the attempted attack in London; and all attacks by which innocent people are killed or harmed in any manner and all attacks that result in destruction of the property of innocent people"; and

Whereas the Islamic Medical Association of North America further stated, "Such attacks, regardless of whether or not they have been perpetrated by physicians, are against the most basic teachings of our religion, Islam, and are contrary to the very basic principles of our profession, regardless of religion or creed. Suicide is also strictly prohibited in Islam." Now, therefore, be it

##### Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the recent attempted attacks in the United Kingdom;

(2) commends the Islamic Medical Association of North America for swift, clear, and public denunciation of the attacks;

(3) encourages Muslim voices in the United States and abroad to continue speaking out against terrorism; and

(4) condemns bigotry and acts of violence against any American, including Arab-Americans and Muslim-Americans.

#### AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2189. Mr. COLEMAN (for himself, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. THUNE, Mr. McCONNELL, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. GRAHAM, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. GREGG, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. BENNETT, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. ENZI, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. BUNNING, and Mr. CORKER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2190. Mr. MCCAIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1585, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2191. Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. KERRY, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. JOHNSON, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. BINGAMAN, Ms. SNOWE, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. TESTER, and Mr. BAUCUS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1585, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2192. Mr. LEVIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1585, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2193. Mr. CHAMBLISS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2063 submitted by Mr. SALAZAR (for himself, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. CASEY, Mr. GREGG, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. SUNUNU, Mr. DOMENICI, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Ms.